

TRIBUTE TO SIGRID WRIGHT—
CALIFORNIA'S 24TH CONGRES-
SIONAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Mr. CARBAJAL. Madam Speaker, each year, through the Women of the Year Award, my office extends special recognition to women on the Central Coast who have made a difference in our community. I would like to recognize one outstanding Women of the Year Award recipient, Sigrid Wright of Santa Barbara, California.

A longtime resident of Santa Barbara, Sigrid Wright has been a leader in environmental non-profits and climate change advocacy on the Central Coast for more than 25 years. With the many daunting challenges of the growing climate crisis, her leadership has guided the community in facing those challenges.

Sigrid was named as CEO/executive director of the Community Environmental Council (CEC) in 2015, becoming the first woman to lead the 45-year-old non-profit. Driven by the environmental destruction seen along Santa Barbara's coastline due to the 1969 oil spill, Sigrid has championed CEC's mission to move the Santa Barbara region away from dependence on fossil fuels in one generation—Fossil Free by '33. As CEO, Sigrid has spearheaded CEC's climate goals by educating and activating the Santa Barbara community around sustainable practices, advocating for environmentally sound policies and laws, and building partnerships with other organizations to open new pathways for sustainable transportation, energy, and food systems.

In her longstanding commitment to resolving the climate crisis, Sigrid co-founded the Central Coast Climate Justice Network as well as the Central Coast Climate Collaborative, devoted to advancing social, economic, and environmental justice. Sigrid's efforts to effect real change in climate advocacy have already been recognized by her community. In 2020, California Assemblymember Monique Limón named CEC Non-Profit of the Year. Community initiatives sparked by Sigrid and CEC have included Santa Barbara's first ever wind farm which is expected to power 53,000 family homes with clean, sustainable electricity.

Where Sigrid sees a need, she takes action to fill it. She strategizes and addresses each of the root causes of climate change in her role as leader of CEC. Her influence over Santa Barbara's local food justice movement has led to produce and prepared food being redirected to impoverished peoples and families in need rather than end up at a landfill. Sigrid's quest to reduce consumption and waste has helped expand the Rethink the Drink program, providing access to thousands of hydration stations across Santa Barbara County and environmental education for participating schools. She gives so much of her time, energy, and resources to serve our community. She is a worthy candidate for this honor and a role model for community leaders of all kinds.

I am honored to recognize Sigrid for her continued commitment to environmental and climate change advocacy on the Central Coast. I ask all Members to join me today in

honoring an exceptional woman of California's 24th Congressional District, Sigrid Wright, for her incredible service to her community.

HONORING MATALIE MILES

HON. RICK W. ALLEN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent, Matalie Miles, upon her acceptance to the United States Military Academy at West Point.

As a future cadet, she will be joining the ranks of the world's most fearsome fighting force—the United States Army—guided by duty, honor, and country.

The service and sacrifice of America's military personnel have safeguarded our Nation since its inception, defending our way of life from Lexington to Normandy.

And throughout our history, American soldiers have demonstrated tremendous courage and strength, beating back tyranny to the ends of the earth.

I was glad to sponsor Matalie's nomination and I am confident that her talents will distinguish her among her peers both during her time at West Point and thereafter.

I congratulate Matalie, and know that she will make this Nation proud.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. CURTIS L. JONES, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor, commend, and extend my congratulations to a gifted educator, dedicated community leader, and great team builder, Dr. Curtis L. Jones, Jr. Dr. Jones retired from his role as Superintendent of the Bibb County, Georgia School District, and a retirement celebration was held on Friday, May 27, 2022, at The Macon Coliseum located at 200 Coliseum Drive in Macon, Georgia.

Born to the union of Reverend Curtis L. Jones and Mrs. Roberta Prescott Jones, Dr. Jones earned his bachelor's degree at the United States Military Academy at West Point and went on to complete a distinguished military career in the U.S. Army, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. He earned a Master of Business Administration from Albany State University in Albany, Georgia, an Education Specialist Degree from Lincoln Memorial University, and a doctorate in Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University.

For nearly two decades, Dr. Jones has been an effective and trusted leader in multiple roles in public education administration in the state of Georgia. He established an impressive career beginning as a JROTC instructor with the Griffin-Spalding County School System in Griffin, Georgia, moving to the positions of High School Principal, Assistant Superintendent, and thereafter, Superintendent of Schools.

On April 6, 2015, he became Superintendent of the Bibb County School District in

Macon, Georgia, and worked tirelessly with teachers, administrators, and other support staff to transform the students of Bibb County into scholars, leaders, and good citizens. While leading the Bibb County School District, Dr. Jones has worked to enhance literacy and classroom learning through the development of a District Literacy Plan, which led to student growth on the Georgia Milestones Assessments. He led two voter-approved Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (ESPLOST) campaigns, which funded the opening of six new school buildings and countless school renovation projects. His commitment to equity motivated him to secure major technology improvements assuring that every child has equal access to high-quality technology resources. During his tenure as Superintendent, the Bibb County School District has made great gains in improving its graduation rate from 58.9 percent in 2014 to 80.67 percent in 2021.

Under his exceptional leadership, the District has received Georgia's College Board Linking Award for having more than 80 percent of juniors and seniors utilizing Khan Academy for SAT preparation (2017); the Digital School District Survey Award for Large Student Population Districts category, and along with its Board of Education has been named both a Distinguished and Exemplary Board by the Georgia School Boards Association (2018). Bibb County was featured in The District Management Journal, in an article titled "Raising Achievement and Addressing Equity at Bibb County Schools" and as a case study with K-12 Insight for its work in improving stakeholder communications through its use of the Let's Talk! platform. In addition to these achievements, seven schools have achieved Leader in Me Lighthouse School status (2022), and the District has achieved accreditation from AdvancED, (now Cognia), with two schools—Skyview and Carter Elementary Schools, being recognized as National Elementary and Secondary Education Act Title I Schools of Distinction.

Dr. Jones' leadership has made a tremendous impact on the many educators and administrators in the District, as numerous leaders and staff members have been recognized at the state and national levels, and have been invited to serve as leading panelists and make presentations on how Bibb has demonstrated success.

Winston Churchill once said: "You make your living by what you get, you make your life by what you give." Dr. Curtis L. Jones, Jr. has given so much to the Bibb County School District, its educators, its administrators, and most importantly, its students. He has cast a wide net in his service as an educator, and Bibb County, our state, and our nation are better because of his work.

In addition to his work for the Bibb County School District, Dr. Jones is engaged in numerous professional and community organizations including the Rotary Club of Macon and the Kiwanis Club of Macon. He serves on several community boards including those for the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce and the United Way of Central Georgia. He is a past governing board member for The School Superintendents Association (AASA) and past president of the Georgia School Superintendents Association (GSSA).

For his work in educational leadership and administration, Dr. Jones has received several